

EXHIBIT

9

DATE

1-21-13

HB

Agency Budget Discussion

**BOX ELDER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

DISTRICT NO. 13-G, HILL COUNTY

BOX ELDER, MONTANA 59521

January 17, 2013

Dear Senator Brad Hamlett,

My name is Kevin Barsotti and I am writing to you on behalf of Box Elder Schools, our art instructor Thomas Marinkovich, our students, and other Montana students who have traveled or will travel to Box Elder to learn the art of glass blowing from Mr. Marinkovich and his students.

Our school is one of just three public school glass blowing facilities west of the Mississippi river. We have served many Montana schools in the past including Manhattan Christian, Harlem, Rocky Boy, Big Sandy, North Star (Kremlin, Gilford, Rudyard, Hingham), CJI (Chester, Joplin, Inverness), Belt, Hays Lodge Pole, Conrad (both the high school and the junior high school), Great Falls Home School, Big Sandy, Big Sandy home school students, Fort Benton, and Chinook.

Our instructor has also used our facility to teach students from Stone Child College as well as teachers from around the area. We also have a group of adults (staff from the Montana Indian Education for All office) coming this June to participate in our glass blowing lab work.

In the past we have charged a fee to other schools to pay for part of the cost of the propane needed for the two furnaces that we operate. Typically schools visit our facility two days in a row and provide their students an educational opportunity that they really can't obtain anywhere else in our state.

We are asking for funding to pay for part of our propane costs and glass costs so that we can continue to operate the program for Box Elder students as well as serve other schools without having to charge them for this service.

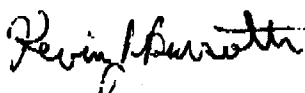
I have written grants attempting to obtain propane before (I was just turned down by a large insurance company yesterday) and I have attempted to have our distributor negotiate a discount for the propane we use for our art program but so far I have been unsuccessful. I have also attempted to obtain funding from the petroleum industry as well as contacting the Montana Arts Council.

We have not given up on this project but currently we are looking at cutting the amount of days each year that we can run our glass blowing furnaces due to the daily propane cost. The cost of propane for our art program is over \$30,000.00 per year plus we have the cost of the glass.

We are requesting consideration of our proposal for funding of one half of the yearly operating propane and glass costs or \$17,500.00 per year for the next two years for a total of \$35,000.00 for the Box Elder High School art program's glass blowing classes.

Thanks again for your interest in this project and for your efforts on behalf of Montana students.

Sincerely,



Kevin Barsotti-Box Elder Schools